Amendment to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-35 (Cancelled)

Claim 36 (Currently Amended) A method of cleaving RNA comprising SEQ ID NO:~~24562~~2460 encoded by a mammalian VEGFr1 gene comprising contacting a double-stranded ~~nucleic~~ ribonucleic acid (siRNA) molecule with the RNA encoded by VEGFr1 gene under conditions suitable for the cleavage of the RNA encoded by the mammalian VEGFr1 gene, wherein:

(a) each strand of the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siRNA molecule comprises about 18 to about 27 nucleotides;

(b) each strand of the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siRNA molecule comprises one or more chemical modifications selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl nucleotide, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotide, and 2'-deoxy ribose moiety; and

(c) one of the strands of the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siRNA molecule is complementary to RNA encoded by the mammalian VEGFr1 gene or a portion thereof and the other strand is complementary to the first strand.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siRNA molecule comprises no ribonucleotides.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siRNA molecule comprises ribonucleotides.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein each strand of the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siRNA molecule comprises at least about 19 nucleotides that are complementary to the nucleotides of the other strand.

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Claim 40 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 39, wherein the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siRNA molecule is assembled from two separate oligonucleotide fragments wherein one fragment comprises a sense region and the second fragment comprises an antisense region and wherein the sense region and antisense region are complementary to each other.

Claim 41 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said sense region is connected to the antisense region via a linker molecule.

Claim 42 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein said linker molecule is a polynucleotide linker.

Claim 43 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein said linker molecule is a non-nucleotide linker.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in the sense region are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in the sense region are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein ~~the~~ one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense region are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

Claim 47 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the fragment comprising said sense region includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the fragment comprising said sense region.

Claim 48 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

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Claim 49 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein ~~the~~ one or more pyrimidine nucleotides ~~of~~ present in said antisense region are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides

Claim 50 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein ~~the~~ one or more purine nucleotides ~~of~~ present in said antisense region are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein ~~the~~ one or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense region comprise 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.

Claim 52 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said antisense region comprises a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense region.

Claim 53 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said antisense region comprises a glyceryl modification at the 3' end of said antisense region.

Claim 54 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein each of the two 3' terminal nucleotides of each fragment of the double stranded nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-pyrimidines.

Claim 55 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 54, wherein said 2'-deoxy-pyrimidine is 2'-deoxy-thymidine.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siRNA molecule comprises a first strand having sequence

5'-B CUGAGUUUAAAAGGCACCCTT B-3' (SEQ ID NO: 2185),

and a second strand having sequence

5'-GGGUGCCUUUUAAACUCAGTsT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 2188),

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wherein each A, G, C, and U are ribonucleotides, each T is thymidine, s is a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage, and each B is an inverted deoxyabasic cap moiety.

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